Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-15 **(Canceled)**

Claim 16 **(Currently Amended)** A ~~The~~ method of setting an audio output level ~~as in claim 11,~~ comprising:

storing a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information preliminarily;

selecting one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a current clock time; and

requesting an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected ~~wherein a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information is preliminarily stored, and a threshold corresponding to a current clock time among the plurality of stored thresholds is used as the~~ threshold.

Claim 17 **(Currently Amended)** A ~~The~~ method of setting an audio output level ~~as in claim 11,~~ comprising:

storing a plurality of thresholds associated with audio output device information preliminarily;

selecting one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a currently connected audio output device; and

requesting an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected ~~wherein a plurality of thresholds associated with information of an audio output device to be connected is preliminarily stored, and a threshold corresponding to an audio output device currently connected among the plurality of stored thresholds is used as the~~ threshold.

Claim 18 **(Currently Amended)** The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 16. ~~11,~~

wherein each of the plurality of thresholds ~~threshold for setting a range of the audio output level~~ includes at least one of an upper limit and a lower limit.

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Claims 19 and 20 **(Canceled)**

Claim 21 **(Currently Amended)** A device for setting an audio output level, the device comprising:

~~wherein the device operates by using the method comprising:~~

a storage unit operable to store ~~storing~~ a plurality of thresholds associated with clock time information ~~threshold for setting a range of an audio output level~~ preliminarily;

a selecting unit operable to select one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a current clock time; and

~~checking an audio output level set when previously used in starting of using; and~~

a requesting unit operable to request an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that exceeds the selected threshold.

Claim 22 **(Currently Amended)** The device for setting an audio output level as recited in claim 21, further comprising:

~~wherein the method further comprising:~~

a changing unit operable to change the setting of the audio output level only if the ~~an~~ acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 23 **(Currently Amended)** A device for setting an audio output level, the device comprising:

~~wherein the device operates by using a method comprising:~~

a storage unit operable to store ~~storing~~ a plurality of thresholds associated with audio output device information ~~threshold for setting a range of an audio output level~~ preliminarily;

a selecting unit operable to select one of the plurality of thresholds corresponding to a currently connected audio output device; and

a requesting unit operable to request an acknowledgement that a setting of the audio output level is to be changed, if the setting of the audio output level is to be changed to a setting that

~~checking an audio output level set when previously used in starting of using; and~~

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~~changing a setting of an audio output level to within the threshold if the previous setting of the audio output level~~ exceeds the _selected_ threshold.

Claim 24 **(Currently Amended)** The _device for_ ~~method of~~ setting an audio output level as recited in claim 23, _further comprising:_

_____ _a changing unit operable to change the setting of the audio output level if the_ _acknowledgement is given_ ~~wherein the setting of the audio output level is changed to within the threshold only if time from when a previous using ends until when a next using starts exceeds a given time, and furthermore, the previous setting exceeds the threshold~~ _that the setting is to be_ _changed_.

Claim 25 **(New)** The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 16, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 26 **(New)** The method of setting an audio output level as in recited claim 16, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if an acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed within a given time after the requesting of the acknowledgement.

Claim 27 **(New)** The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if the acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed.

Claim 28 **(New)** The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

changing the setting of the audio output level only if an acknowledgement is given that the setting is to be changed within a given time after the requesting of the acknowledgement.

Claim 29 **(New)** The method of setting an audio output level as recited in claim 17,

wherein each of the plurality of thresholds includes at least one of an upper limit and a lower limit.